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CHILEAN-BOLIVIAN RAILROAD REPRESENTATIVES TO MEET

PY091205 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 9 Jan 80 PY

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos has reported that Chilean and Bolivian railroad representatives will meet in Arica on Monday to discuss matters pertaining to the Arica-La Paz railroad system. The agenda to be discussed has not been disclosed, but it was learned that one of the main issues will be the railroad tariff system. Chile recently readjusted its railroad tariffs, which are based on the purchasing power of the U.S. dollar. This increase was severely criticized by Bolivia, but Chilean experts explained that the Arica-La Paz railroad has an average annual deficit of $1.5 million and that this is one of the main factors which caused an increase in railroad tariffs. They noted that the railroad tariffs are based on a rate established in dollars in 1948 and that they have not been readjusted since then. The Chilean experts noted that the dollar has depreciated to the extent that the tariffs that are charged today are probably equal to one-third of the original rate. They added that the Bolivian side has readjusted its train tariffs on more than one occasion without previously consulting the Chilean side.

ANDEAN GROUP TO SUPPORT BOLIVIA ON TIN PROBLEM WITH U.S.

PA141614 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1902 GMT 13 Jan 80 PA

[By Miguel Paredes]

[Text] Lima, 13 Jan (LATIN)--The Andean Group "will support and assist" Bolivia fully in its differences with the United States regarding the sale of tin on the international market, it was announced here. The announcement of the Andean decision, which will be released in Bolivia tomorrow, was drafted here by the foreign ministers of Colombia, Peru and Venezuela who went to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, to participate in the first meeting of the Andean Pact foreign ministers' council. During a news conference, the foreign ministers criticized the U.S. sale of tin. This mineral, they said, is the base of Bolivian economic stability. On 2 January the United States announced the release of 35,000 metric tons of tin from its noncommercial reserves. Five thousand tons will be delivered to the International Tin Reserve Council Fund and the remainder will be placed on the market in an as yet undefined sales program.

During the news conference, the foreign ministers of Colombia, Diego Uribe, and Peru, Arturo Garcia, criticized American law for the sale of tin, regretting that it occurred at a time when the Bolivian economy is passing through a "critical period." "We shall support the Bolivian Government in its efforts to keep the United States from selling its strategic reserves on the market," Foreign Minister Garcia said. He added that Peru's traditional attitude "has always stood for the defense of our natural resources." Foreign Minister Uribe, who arrived in Santa Cruz together with Garcia, said the Andean Group will take a "very vigorous" action in support of Bolivia. "We must prove that the Andean group is the primary solidarity force in our hemisphere," he added. Uribe, after saying the tin problem is on the council's working agenda, said that in his opinion, "Bolivia must speak again to the United States and explain the dangers of not having an adequate and harmonious policy in defense of basic products." Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Zambrano told the press his country has reasserted to Bolivia its solidarity and support in the tin problem and it will support, within the Andean Pact, any action that tends to solve the problem. He also said the foreign ministers council meeting will study the possibility of jointly giving economic assistance to Bolivia.

DELEGATE TO TIN COUNCIL CITES POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE ON U.S. TIN SALE

FY121927 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Jan 80 FY

[Excerpt] The Bolivian delegation which will attend the meeting of the International Tin Council on the 6th international tin agreement will defend the interests of the country by requesting that the United States not attack the Bolivian economy by selling its strategic tin reserves on the international market. This statement was made by Senator Fernando Baptista Gumucio, president of the Finance Commission of the Senate, who was invited by the mining and metallurgy minister to join the delegation which will attend this international meeting, to be held in London from 15 to 18 January.

[Begin Baptista recording] The meeting is of vital importance for the country because we will discuss the method the United States will use to sell its tin reserves, as announced earlier. At the same time, we will discuss the new regulations which will characterize the 6th international tin agreement. I believe that, together with the negotiations carried out in Buenos Aires regarding the gas price increase, this is an important discussion which should be carried out with great seriousness and patriotism. [passage indistinct]

I understand that Malaysia sent a delegation to Washington in November to find out the opinion of the U.S. Government and to seek an agreement according to the principle established by the Kennedy administration that the U.S. would not sell its tin reserves on the international market without prior consultations with tin-producing countries. I believe that during this meeting in London we should obtain support for our demand regarding the sale of the tin reserves. We could probably come to an agreement that the sale be made over a period longer than 3 years. [end recording]

LA PAZ CITIZENS ARM AGAINST THREAT OF PEASANT INVASION

FY142045 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1835 GMT 14 Jan 80 FY

[Text] La Paz, 14 Jan (TELAM-AFP)--It was reported here today that last night and early this morning hundreds of men organized so-called civilian committees for armed defense to protect themselves from the feared invasion of thousands of peasants. These committees were organized after the daily EL DIARIO of this city published several reports that many peasants were preparing to invade the fashionable Calacoto residential neighborhood of this city. An eyewitness reported that many men were seen carrying rifles and pistols and appeared to be preparing to withstand a siege.

Meetings were held recently in fashionable neighborhoods of La Paz and many weapons were picked up by civilians who were setting up family arsenals while awaiting further developments. The reports of the La Paz daily concerning a possible peasant invasion of La Paz residential neighborhoods were officially refuted by the government.

BRIEFS

REPRESENTATIVE TO TIN COUNCIL--Former Mining Under Secretary (Alvaro Ugalde) has been appointed permanent representative of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (COMIBOL) on the International Tin Council. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Jan 80 FY]

TECHNICAL ACCORD WITH FRANCE--The Bolivian and French governments have signed an agreement for technical cooperation concerning afforestation and cattle raising in the inter-Andean valley. The French Government will grant Bolivia a nonreimbursable credit for the equivalent of $200,000. [La Paz Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 12 Jan 80 FY]

FINANCE MINISTER PREDICTS INFLATION RATE WILL DECREASE

PY111755 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 11 Jan 80 PY

[Text] Finance Minister Sergio de Castro discussed the decreasing trend of unemployment and the increasing trend in salaries during a lecture he gave at the seminar organized by the Valparaiso business school. About the Chilean economy, the finance minister said that the 1980 budget has been established on the basis of an average copper price of $0.75 per pound. In this regard, he noted that any surplus would be used to decrease the foreign debt or to increase our international reserves. De Castro said he believes our economy will continue to experience a sustained growth in percentages similar to those experienced in the last 3 years. He said that there will be a notable curbing of inflation. It is estimated that the inflation rate will be decreased to 15 percent. The inflation rate in 1979 totaled 39 percent.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES INVESTMENTS IN MINING SECTOR

PY111727 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Jan 80 PY

[Text] Mines Minister Carlos Quinonez has reported that the government will invest $244.5 million in the large-size mining sector this year, as compared to the $170 million invested last year. This budget will be used to maintain the level of the 1979 production, which totaled 915,000 tons. He admitted, however, that this year's production will be slightly less than the figure registered last year. Production last year increased by 40,000 tons as compared to 1978 production. He noted that although copper prices will stay high for the first 3 months of the year, they will decrease because of the recession that is now beginning to be experienced in the United States. He said: We are prudent, since we do not believe copper prices will stay high for long unless there are unpredictable events in the Middle East.

He reported, moreover, that ENAP [National Petroleum Enterprise] is carrying out (periodic) oil prospecting south of the Magellan Strait, and that these will continue until 1981. He added that the U.S. enterprise Atlantic Richfield is drilling two wells: one off Chiloe Island and the other off Guambil Island. The first well is [name indistinct] No 1. The prospecting started on 1 November 1979. The prospecting for the second well, (Darwin) No 1, will start in February. The results of these two drillings will be available in March.

The mines minister noted that the results of gas prospecting carried out on Mocha Island are under study, and that a final result will be available within 2 months.

He disclosed that the Chilean Government is willing to start the exploitation of the Magallanes coal deposits within 2 or 3 years. He added that the French firm [name indistinct] has been contracted to evaluate the use of this coal production.

BRIEFS

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH--The Industrial Development Association (SOFOFA) reported that the overall growth rate of production and industrial sales remained stable during 1979. Production growth from January to November 1979 was 8.9 percent as compared to the same period in 1978. In that year the growth rate was 8.6 percent. [Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1338 GMT 10 Jan 80 PY]

OIL PRODUCTION FIGURES, GOALS ANNOUNCED

PA121610 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0508 GMT 12 Jan 80 PA

[Summary] Mexico City, 1 Jan (EFE)--The state-owned Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX] officially announced today that Mexican production of crudes and oil liquids reached 1,900,337 barrels per day. Most of this was obtained from the rich deposits in La Reforma, in the country's southeast. PEMEX' goal is to reach 2.250 million barrels per day in the first half of the year.

PEMEX Warns U.S.

PA130255 Paris AFP in Spanish 2039 GMT 12 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Jan (AFP)--Mexico today indirectly warned the United States it might stop supplying it with petroleum if the Mexican oil is destined for markets other than U.S. consumers. Jorge Diaz Serrano, director of Mexican Petroleum, said if Mexico proves that a client is violating the provisions of the oil sale contracts by selling Mexican oil in the spot markets, he will be immediately excluded. The PEMEX director's statement, which came a few days after the United States announced it will market a large part of its reserves, are viewed as an indirect Mexican warning so that Mexican oil will not be sold at a higher price than it was supplied.

U.S. Gas Price Annou ced

PA150312 Paris AFP in Spanish 0218 GMT 15 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Jan (AFP)--The price of gas to be sold by Mexico to the United States effective tomorrow will be $3,625 per thousand cubic feet, as it was agreed in September 1979, the director general of PEMEX, Jorge Diaz Serrano said today. During a news conference today, Diaz Serrano also reported that the first shipments of gas will not reach a volume of 300 million cubic feet daily as agreed, but will range from 50 to 100 million cubic feet daily. He explained that this lower amount of pumping will be done until the proper adjustments are made in the instruments of the control equipment; that the figure of 300 million barrels [as received] daily will be reached once this work is completed. The price of the gas, which according to the contract signed between the United States and Mexico will be readjustable every 3 months or whenever new prices are fixed for oil, will be in effect in principle for the 3 months from January to March.

TWO LEFTIST PARTIES SUPPORT SOVIET 'AID' TO AFGHANISTAN

PA130433 Paris AFP in Spanish 1704 GMT 12 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Jan (AFP)--Two leftist parties represented in the Mexican Congress issued a joint communique today supporting the Soviet Union for its solidarity with the Afghan revolution. The communique, entitled "Long Live the Afghan Revolution and Soviet Solidarity," stated in its first paragraph: "The Mexican Peoples Party and the Socialist Revolutionary Party firmly support the Afghan revolutionary government and aid the Soviet Union has given to that nation on the basis of the principles of proletarian internationalism and solidarity among peoples." According to the two parties, the Soviet presence in Afghanistan is to help the Afghan people contain the attack of the United States, Pakistan and China. They said the hypocritical U.S. outcry is due to the fact that it wanted to use Afghanistan to replace the loss of Iran as a military base and policeman of the Middle East as well as petroleum supplier.

FOREIGN MINISTER OPTIMISTIC FOR SPEEDY SOLUTION TO EMBASSY TAKEOVER

PA122053 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1919 GMT 12 Jan 80 PA

[Report on interview with Panamanian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores, presumably at the presidential palace on 12 January--recorded]

[Text] [Ozores] What most concerns us now is the problem in El Salvador. We have maintained continuous contact with our embassy there. We believe the fact that the occupiers of the embassy have not cut the telephone lines and that it is easy to reach the ambassador is a good sign. The ambassador has told us that the occupiers are very peaceful. The number of persons in the embassy, including occupiers, embassy personnel and the ambassador of Costa Rica, is 57. I asked him if there was any food problem and he said no, that there is no problem in that regard, that they are receiving aid from the Red Cross and from other institutions.

Dr Hector Dada, former foreign minister and now a member of the government junta, has been holding talks with us and he has promised us that one of the main demands of the occupiers, the release of seven of their companeros in the City of Berlin, will be met. The problem is that apparently the occupiers have made other demands, including the release of some persons who apparently do not exist or have disappeared. I believe that if they insist on this, the matter could be blocked. However, we talked until a short while ago and we believe this situation could be solved this weekend.

[Question] Regarding the possibility of asylum, has this been considered?

[Answer] No. It just happens that I asked one of the occupiers of the embassy if once the problem is solved, that is, once their seven companeros under arrest are released, they would feel in danger and they would ask the Panamanian Government for asylum. They told us no, that if the situation is solved, they, with help from the Red Cross, would ask the Red Cross for cooperation to withdraw from the embassy and go home.

[Question] What is the situation of the Costa Rican ambassador, who is also in the Panamanian Embassy?

[Answer] I believe this is a unique case, with two ambassadors in the same embassy. As everybody knows, the Costa Rican ambassador, who was ambassador to Panama until recently, was on a courtesy visit at the time of the occupation. This does not change the situation. We believe this will be solved in the next 48 hours. Let us hope that it will definitely be that way.

GOVERNMENT REITERATES DECISION NOT TO EXTRADITE SHAH

PA141355 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1232 GMT 14 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Panama City, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Panamanian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores today reiterated that the overthrown shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, will not be extradited. In this way Ozores commented on international reports which indicated yesterday that the Iranian authorities had asked Panamanian President Aristides Royo to arrest the former shah, who lives in Panama, until the Tehran government can formally present the documents requesting his extradition in about 2 months.

The Panamanian foreign minister said, "No country which has granted political asylum to a person can return him to another country where death penalty charges have been made against him." The former Iranian ruler has taken refuge on Contadora Island since the Panamanian Government granted him asylum in "a humanitarian gesture" without commitments or time limits "to help solve the Iranian crisis." The house where the deposed shah and his party are staying is under heavy guard and has been equipped with sophisticated security installations.

FEP DELEGATION RETURNS FROM IRAN, SECRETARY GENERAL COMMENTS

PA141946 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Jan 80 PA

[Text] The Panamanian student delegation that visited Iran in response to an invitation from the Union of Iranian Students has returned to Panama after participating in official meetings and multitudinous demonstrations in Tehran.

The mission, headed by Mario Panther, secretary general of the Federation of Panamanian Students [FEP], stressed upon arrival here that the Panamanian people identify with the Iranian people's struggle for sovereignty and that, in turn, the Iranian students and youths support Panama's struggle for decolonization. Courtesies were shown at the highest official levels to the FEP delegation during its stay in Iran. It was also received by Ayatollah Khomeyni, the Iranian people's leader.

The student delegation will call a news conference this week to brief newsmen and the Panamanian people on its experiences during the trip to Iran.

PDP SUPPORTS USSR INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN

PA150108 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Jan 80 p 9 PA

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Party [PDP] issued a declaration yesterday saying that "it supports the revolution being carried out in Afghanistan and it agrees with the moral and military aid that the USSR has given that country."

The PDP analyzes the causes of the "Afghan revolution" and "condemns the destabilization that Yankee imperialism was conducting since April 1978 in complicity with the British and its ally Beijing under the direction of the CIA." The PDP stresses that "the USSR--let no one be mistaken--will never remain passive in the face of imperialist aggression against peoples who are struggling for their freedom, democracy and socialism."

The declaration adds that the USSR "will not be indifferent to the threats of war by imperialism, imperialism's conspiracies against world peace as in the matter of the rearming of Western Europe, Chinese provocations against Vietnam, U.S. threats against Iran and interventions against people who have accomplished their revolution, like Nicaragua. Revolution is at present a solid, worldwide family, and its powerful force is achieving true social justice in country after country."

The declaration stresses that "our party firmly supports the USSR's international policy. Through this support we express the wishes of the true Panamanian revolutionaries. That is why Soviet military aid in defense of the people of Afghanistan in the face of foreign threats is the true exercise of the internationalist proletariat principles so highly valued and respected by us. We proclaim great joy in knowing that the fraternal Afghan people can carry out their great revolution firmly protected by the invincible forces of socialism led by the Soviet Union."

OZORES CITES U.S. 'UNILATERAL DECISION' ON EXECUTIVE BOARD

PA130019 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores has said that the U.S. decision making the U.S. Defense Department the one that unilaterally makes decisions in the canal area is the main essence of U.S. violations of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. The foreign minister made this statement in reference to the Executive Board, made up of five North Americans and four Panamanians, which President Carter recently appointed.

Since the beginning of the negotiations on the Torrijos-Carter treaty the two parties agreed to establish the Executive Board to make decisoons on operations and activities in the canal area. Under the treaty, decisions should be made by the board and not, as has subsequently occurred, by the North Americans, who have granted dictatorial powers to the Defense Department. This is a violation of the treaty.

Regarding this, Ozores indicated that the United States will surely reconsider this irregularity but that this is not the proper time to bring this up with the U.S. Government because this is an election year in the United States and we are going to wait for a more favorable political time.

ENVOY SAYS PANAMA RESERVES RIGHT TO REVOKE CANAL TREATY

PA131742 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 13 Jan 80 PA

[(Odin) Julio Miller III interview with Carlos Alfredo Lopez Guevara, Panamanian ambassador to the United States--presumably recorded; date, place not given]

[Text] [Question] The Murphy Law, No 9760, recently enacted by the U.S. Congress has been in the limelight recently. What negative implications could it have on U.S.-Panama relations and on the maintenance and operation of the Panama Canal?

[Answer] The Murphy Law is not binding on Panama. What is binding on the two countries are the two treaties that were signed and ratified. What does concern Panama is any actions taken to enforce that law which violate the Panama Canal treaty and the neutrality treaty. As President Royo has correctly noted in his latest letter to President Carter, the United States is methodically violating the Panama Canal treaty. Also methodically, President Royo outlined these violations, very clearly.

We reserve all the rights a country has at the international level when it is harmed [agraviado], when rights consecrated in a treaty are violated. We have reserved these rights and our government will adopt pertinent juridical and political decisons about this in due time. For the time being, suffice it to stress that the malaise has been precisely pointed out before the world in President Royo's letter to President Carter. It behooves the United States to revise the law and make it consistent with the treaty in order to avoid implementing acts in violation of the treaty.

In my opinion, the matter which is most seriously jeopardizing harmony between the two countries at the present time is the distortion of the board of directors' functions by the Murphy Law. Therefore, something very serious is occurring. The essence of the treaty has been destroyed and, fortunately, our president has appropriately noted this. So, we hope the United States will also remedy the situation in a timely manner to harmonize it completely with the treaty.

[Question] Following President Royo's letter to U.S. President James Carter, what position could Panama adopt internationally if U.S. violations continue?

[Answer] As I noted, we have reserved all rights, internationally and privately speaking. This means when a person violates a treaty or a contract and does not comply with it, the other party has various remedies available. One of them is to disclaim the other party's rights under the contract.

Internationally speaking--and this is very clearly provided for by the Vienna convention on treaty rights--when a country violates a treaty the other party is not bound by it. This is what is called the right to denounce a treaty. We have this right today. We will decide in due time whether to exercise this right or not, if we feel that the United States is taking action with due promptness to remedy an abnormal situation, a flagrant violation of the treaties. [sentence as heard] We have these rights legally but we must make political decisions on them.

[Question] Doctor Lopez, wouldn't you feel that, beginning in the year 2000, when a new treaty will supposedly be signed for the construction of an interoceanic canal, all of the terms of this new treaty would become obsolete?

[Answer] As a matter of fact, the present treaty expires in the year 2000. Henceforth, I hope we will not need any treaty to build a sea-level canal, that is, if science and economics indicate that this is advisable and wise. However, I hope that any improvement or expansion of the present canal will not require a new treaty. I think the canal is self-financing and that our government can do this--if it is profitable--because, if economically speaking we reach the conclusion that traffic justifies the addition of a new set of locks or a new sea-level canal, then we will not need any treaty. [sentence as heard] It would simply be financed on the world market by the World Bank, the IMF, the Inter-American Development Bank or private banks.

We must look at the canal as a business. If it is not profitable why should we then incur heavy expenses, or compromise our national wealth or that of future generations to provide the U.S. Navy with a more expeditious or easy passage? These are matters we should not even take into consideration. We must always look at the canal as a business.

[Announcer] Doctor Lopez, thank you for your statements for the national radio and television service.

WORKERS COUNCIL REJECTS ROYO CALL FOR TALKS ON LAW 95

PA150214 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 14 Jan 80 PA

[Text] The National Council of Workers (CONATO), which includes the main workers centrals and federations of the country, turned down an invitation by President Aristides Royo to meet tomorrow, 15 January, at La Siesta Hotel with representatives of the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP), the National Legislation Commission and the Labor Ministry's Labor Committee. The meeting was to discuss the search for a formula that would produce a harmonious solution, compatible with the interests of the management and the workers alike, with respect to Law 95 of 1976.

CONEP, representing the management sector, had accepted the dialog with the workers and the government sector. President Royo's invitation called on both sectors to name a delegation of 12 leaders.

In its reply to the labor minister, Oyden Ortega, CONATO says that at a meeting on 10 January, the organization's general assembly decided to abstain from participating in the meeting called by President Royo. Labor leaders Philip Dean Butcher, Angel Gomez, Rolando Ordonez and Gabriel Castillo note that CONATO considered that the labor leadership should not participate because the Panamanian workers movement maintains its position for the derogation of Law 95; therefore there is no room for any formula of understanding in a dialog with the Panamanian management over said law.

COSTA RICA

AUTHORITIES CAPTURE TWO U.S. FISHING BOATS

PA150219 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Two tuna boats sailing under U.S. flags have been captured and are being transferred to Puntarenas. The two boats were captured this afternoon 60 miles from El Cano Island, near Costa Rica's Pacific coast. The boats are named ("Cindy Ann") and ("Marjorie"). Neither boat has a license.

When consulted, the Public Security Ministry confirmed the news but said that no further details are yet available because the boats are being transferred to Puntarenas port, where the necessary investigations will be conducted.

PANAMANIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR MARINE BOUNDARY, FISHING TALKS

PA141926 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Juan Manuel Castulovich arrived in Costa Rica today for a 24-hour visit, Foreign Ministry sources reported. During his meetings with Costa Rican Deputy Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus, Castulovich will discuss marine and submarine delimitation, fishing and other subjects of bilateral interest. The Panamanian deputy foreign minister will also discuss details of Panamanian President Aristides Royo's visit to Costa Rica.

The establishment of a preferential treatment for the transit of Costa Rican ships and cargo through the Panama Canal will be negotiated during the Panamanian president's visit. Royo will arrive in San Jose on 1 February for a 3-day visit. He will meet with President Rodrigo Carazo and government officials during his visit.

STRIKING FRUIT COMPANY EMPLOYEES ASKED TO RETURN TO WORK

PA122258 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Jan 80 PA

[Labor Minister German Serrano Pinto's reply to Jose Joaquin Melendez of the Genuine Confederation of Democratic Workers, Jose Fabio Araya Monge of the National Association of Public Employees, Ricardo Thompson of the Costa Rican Confederation of Democratic Workers and Mario Devandas of the National Federation of Government Employees--read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Sirs: I thank you for the letter you delivered to me personally yesterday on behalf of the organizations you represent in an effort to suggest ideas that might be of use in settling the strike called by the (Utral) and (Sitaga) unions of the Standard Fruit Company workers in the La Estrella Valley and Rio Frio farms. This document, as well as others that were delivered yesterday and on previous dates by other social organizations and concerned citizens, voices the concern felt in the country over this strike that should never have been called and at any rate has been without a raison d'etre since 27 December 1979, when the government stated its views on the company's work hours and sided with the workers' major demand.

As I said during our conversation, the points you have outlined, aside from those contained in the final settlement document I delivered to the parties on 5 January, are those that interested unions and the general confederation of workers that they belong to have been insisting on and constitute the main difficulty to solving the problem. The final settlement that I proposed to the two conflicting parties is the basic settlement document and it was accepted in principle by the officials to whom I presented it. If the interested parties forget their other demands, it can be signed. I think you, as organizations concerned over the harm this strike is doing to the workers who called it and the national economy, can help us achieve this.

I add that we cannot convey your request for payment of the wages not earned due to the illegal strike to the enterprises in question because there is no basis for it. However, I repeat to you that the government is studying several ways to lessen the harm done to the workers who have been on strike without a reason, since it will still be many more days before they receive another paycheck.

Thank you again for the good intentions that prompted you to discuss your ideas with us and we hope you will help us persuade the (Utral) and (Sitaga) union officials and the workers who are still on strike to return to work so their personal and family budgets will not suffer any more damage and so they will not cause any more harm to national production.

[Signed] Yours truly, Labor Minister German Serrano Pinto.

EL SALVADOR

FURTHER COVERAGE OF PANAMANIAN EMBASSY TAKEOVER

Release of LP-28 Prisoners Confirmed

PA142315 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2246 GMT 14 Jan 80 PA

[Text] The following is a report from Carlos Samayoa in El Salvador: [Begin recording]

From the KSI network exclusively to Radio Periodico Reloj in San Jose: We are reporting the confirmation of the release of the seven prisoners requested by the 28 February People's Leagues [LP-28] as a condition for releasing the Panamanian and Costa Rican ambassadors and four other persons being held hostage in the Panamanian Embassy in San Salvador. The diplomats have not yet been released but it is hoped they will be set free soon because it has been confirmed that the seven prisoners demanded by the LP-28 have been released in Usulutan, 112 km east of the capital.

Last Hostages Released

PA150333 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0223 GMT 15 Jan 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Occupants and hostages this evening evacuated the Panamanian Embassy after the government released seven peasants who had been imprisoned in the eastern city of Usulutan under charges of damaging private property and being in possession of firearms.

The 52 [as received] militants of the Marxist 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28), who on 11 January seized the Panamanian Embassy in San Salvador, left in a bus headed for the University of El Salvador.

Negotiations were conducted by the Venezuelan and Mexican ambassadors, who held talks with both the revolutionary government junta and with the LP-28 leaders.

The last four hostages--Costa Rican and Panamanian Ambassadors Alejandro Alvarado Piza and David Pere Ramos, respectively, the embassy's maid and Costa Rican Attache Santos David Lopez--left the embassy accompanied by Salvadoran Red Cross members.

Pere Ramos said here today that he will leave for Panama shortly in order to inform his government about developments in the embassy and in El Salvador. He said there is no reason not to return to this country which, he underlined, he appreciates deeply.

Both Pere and Alvarado escorted the leftists, who had become strongly entrenched inside the Panamanian Embassy, to the safety of the University of El Salvador.

GUATEMALAN EMBASSY MACHINEGUNNED, NO CASUALTIES REPORTED

PA141506 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1428 GMT 14 Jan 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan Embassy in San Salvador was machinegunned today by a group of persons who took up positions across from the building on North 15th Avenue in this capital. The bullets smashed the windows of the building, which has been attacked similarly on three occasions in less than 2 years. It has not yet been established which armed group carried out the attack.

The shots caused only property damage, a spokesman of the Guatemalan Embassy said.

PRTC Claims Responsibility

PA141641 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1615 GMT 14 Jan 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Jan (LATIN)--Armed persons belonging to the leftist group known as the Central American Workers Revolutionary Party [PRTC] fired on the building housing the Guatemalan Embassy in this capital, causing property damage but no casualties, the police reported. The attack occurred at 0600 (1200 GMT).

Embassy spokesmen said Guatemalan Ambassador Carlos Lemus Gallardo is currently on a visit to his country.

The PRTC had been inactive since September 1979 when it kidnaped U.S. businessmen Dennis McDonald and Fausto Bucheli, whom it released several weeks later after an unspecified ransom was paid.

METALWORKERS OCCUPY SAN SALVADOR CATHEDRAL

PA141521 Paris AFP in Spanish 0431 GMT 14 Jan 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Jan (AFP)--Members of the Salvadoran Metalworkers Union occupied San Salvador's cathedral today shortly after Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero said Sunday Mass. The workers, who also belong to the Marxist Peoples Revolutionary Bloc [BPR], are demanding the reopening of factories closed by their employers.

This is the 19th time the cathedral has been occupied in the last 13 months. In May a demonstration in support of the BPR, which had occupied the cathedral, prompted the police to intervene. The police had previously massacred 19 people on the cathedral's front steps.

Three blocks away other BPR members are occupying the Rosario Church and holding a wake there for a BPR member who, they explained, was on the staff of the organization's press service and was shot to death in Soyapango, a northern suburb of San Salvador.

ARCHBISHOP WARNS OF 'IMMINENT CIVIL WAR'

PA141414 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0858 GMT 14 Jan 80 PA

[By Jose Katigbak]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 14 Jan (LATIN)--Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero warned today that a civil war or a general uprising is "imminent" in El Salvador. The archbishop made this dramatic statement to reporters yesterday shortly after leftist extremists occupied the metropolitan cathedral. He pointed out that the polarization of leftist and rightist forces is so strong that "there is almost no room left for negotiations."

The clergyman's warning about the grave danger hovering over El Salvador came while hopes rose for a prompt release of the ambassadors being held hostage in the Panamanian Embassy, which was occupied by extremists of the leftist self-styled 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28) political group.

Monsignor Romero, who was nominated by British parliamentarians as candidate to the Nobel Peace Prize last year, said "to prevent a bloodbath, it is imperative that extensive changes be made in the economic, political and social fields" of El Salvador.

In his weekly sermon shortly before meeting the press, the prelate spoke of the need for equal distribution of wealth, adding that the rich must "remove rings from their hands now, before they lose their hands."

As Monsignor Romero left the cathedral after celebrating Mass, some 20 members of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) peacefully occupied the church. After allowing all the clergymen and the faithful to leave, the BPR members closed the doors of the cathedral and used the public address system to read antigovernment slogans such as "elections, no--revolution."

For several months the metropolitan cathedral has been the site chosen by opposition groups to voice complaints against the government.

NATIONAL GUARD ACCUSED OF KILLING MLP, BPR MILITANTS

PA122210 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 80 PA

[By special correspondent William (Brindi)]

[Excerpt] The bodies of two militants of the Peoples Liberation Movement [MLP] and one of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc were discovered yesterday in Ojo de Agua, Usulutan Department. The dead persons were 38-year-old Tomas Amaya, 48-year-old (Margarita Ayala), who had eight children, and 28-year-old (Transito) Amaya.

The MLP has accused Sgt Vicente Marcel of the National Guard of the killings, but this has not been confirmed.

Elsewhere, the Revolutionary People's Army on 10 January took over part of the town of San Ramon. Their objective was to make known their position in the present situation.

It has been reported that on Tuesday the Popular Liberation Forces seized a Mejicanos neighborhood area to pay homage to a companera who fell on 4 January during the attack on the National Guard general headquarters.

There is a report from Washington that Robert White, U.S. ambassador to Paraguay, has been transferred to El Salvador to replace Frank Devine, who reportedly will retire. This is the first official policy reaction to the new government junta.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON EFFORTS TO UNIFY LEFTIST GROUPS

Unity Ceremony Held

PA121407 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0011 GMT 12 Jan 80 PA

[By Rene Contreras]

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Honest and progressive army officers will have a place within the unity of the various people's organizations. This was said today, Friday, in a public ceremony at the University of El Salvador by members of the leftist unity bloc which was formed here today.

They emphasized that their bloc includes honest officers. They added that it is difficult to work with the army and that any decision on this would have to be final. They said that these officers will have to decide if they will go with the people or against them at this time when preparations are being made for the final struggle.

Maj Cesar Buitrago, an engineer, spoke toward the end of this ceremony which lasted over 3 hours. He said that within the army ranks there were honest officers who sympathized with the people's struggle.

The officer was applauded for several minutes by the hundreds of participants of the ceremony which took place in the law school auditorium.

Many persons had to listen to the speeches on portable radios and several loudspeakers because the auditorium was unable to hold all participants.

One of the speakers said the people in their struggle have defeated each of the maneuvers of the imperialists and oligarchs and are firmly advancing toward their final liberation. He said that there was no other alternative.

The economic and political structures existing in El Salvador cannot be changed by "demagogic and reformist projects such as the ones promoted by the present administration headed by the Christian Democrats and supported by imperialism."

The leftist unity document says that the Christian Democratic project will fail completely because it will clash with the oligarchic resistance and the armed forces reactionary sectors as well as with the increasing activities of the people's organizations." [quotation mark as received]

They said that their unity demonstrates the maturity of the groups which have agreed to coordinate their efforts.

The union is made up of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc, the United Popular Action Front, the "28 February People's Leagues and the Nationalist Democratic Union," all of whom possess Marxist-Leninist tendencies.

It is also made up of the National Revolutionary Movement, the "Peoples Liberation Movement" and other "democratic and progressive sectors."

The ceremony was held in a fiesta-like atmosphere. The flags of the various groups were borne by the delegates participating in the meeting.

Placards and photographs were seen in various parts of the law school auditorium while fireworks exploded outside commemorating the unity described as a "qualitative step" of the Salvadoran revolutionary organizations.

Delegations of political groups and solidarity committees with the struggle of the Salvadoran people were also present from the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, France, Belgium, Nicaragua and other countries.

Joint Communique Issued

PA150120 San Salvador CRONICA DEL PUEBLO in Spanish 11 Jan 80 p 16 PA

[Joint communique issued by the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc, the United Popular Action Front, the 28 February People's Leagues and the Nationalist Democratic Union on 11 January 1980 in San Salvador]

[Text] With the objective conditions ready for our society's development and the victory of the revolution, the unity of the popular movement is imperative. This unity is a historic need and a fundamental condition for the march toward the people's victory.

Recognizing this need which is a challenge to the revolutionaries, the organizations United Popular Action Front (FAPU), Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), 28 February People's Leagues and the Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN) have begun the process of unifying and coordinating our struggles. We want to set up organizational instruments which will increase the effectiveness of the blows we are going to continue giving the Salvadoran oligarchy and imperialism, blows which will facilitate and make more effective the people's gains. The step we have taken, this unifying process, represents the most important and hopeful move taken by our people. It is a move showing the political maturity of our most representative people's organizations.

This unifying process which our organizations have begun is the result of the struggle that our patriots in democratic and revolutionary organizations have waged. It has been the struggle in which we have all participated and which has definitely contributed to our maturity, our knowledge of the people's common enemy and our understanding of the role we must play in this struggle. We have seen the untiring struggle that the Salvadoran people have carried out with revolutionary determination at the most unfavorable and adverse moments, a struggle for which it paid with the blood of their best sons. The unity of the revolutionary and democratic forces is going to be an iron fence against which the counterrevolution will crash.

For this reason, we are calling all the democratic organizations, progressive persons, small and middle-sized businessmen, professionals, students, and women vendors at the markets, to close ranks against the enemies of the people in order to form the broadest and most powerful revolutionary and democratic force for the establishment of a truly revolutionary government which, with the people, can make democracy and social justice a reality.

We express our solidarity with all the patriots struggling for the definite freedom of our people and especially with the organizations which form the popular movement, and also with the military who have not given up their hope for a change and for justice despite the current domination of the most reactionary sectors of the army. We call on them to struggle on the side of the people on behalf of the ideals of peace based on social justice.

POLICE FIND LEFTIST ARMS CACHE NEAR CAPITAL

PA131645 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1704 GMT 12 Jan 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran police today told newsmen they had discovered a leftist extremists' arsenal in La Loma, Soyapango, 6 km east of San Salvador.

Police officials said in a press conference that during a routine patrol last night the police found a cache of weapons of various calibers and subversive propaganda in the house of Margarita Ramos. Ovidio Martinez Ramos and Jose Nicolas Martinez were responsible for the weapons.

Martinez Ramos said that he is finance secretary of the Association of High School Students (AES) and the Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN), whose secretary general, Mario Rolando Aguinada Carranza, the prisoner said, gave him the weapons.

The prisoners will be turned over the common courts on 14 January according to the procedures established by law.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINS BANK NATIONALIZATION

PA112310 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0242 GMT 10 Jan 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--A government spokesman tonight told ACAN-EFE that the nationalization of Salvadoran banks announced by the revolutionary government junta today does not mean the expropriation of the deposits in the banks. He added that as it is explained in the political program issued by the armed forces today, the measure seeks to "produce social and popular benefits from credits and savings."

The Salvadoran financial system is currently in the hands of a few people who have used the deposits to finance activities which contribute to increasing their own wealth, rather than to benefiting the Salvadoran masses, the spokesman added.

The previous revolutionary government junta had stated in November that no measure which involved the nationalization of the financial system would be adopted. This statement, which the ministers at the time considered hasty, was one of the causes that led to their resignation at the end of the year.

The spokesman indicated that an explanation was necessary because it is foreseen that rightwing sectors will undertake a campaign to confuse and create panic among the depositors regarding their money in savings and checking accounts.

He said that the financial system "is already experiencing a crisis provoked by the drain of capital promoted by the extreme right." The nationalization of the banks seeks to guarantee the money of the depositors, who might not receive it if some of the financial institutions declared bankruptcy.

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER AFGHANISTAN EVENTS

PA141531 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Castillo Valdez has voiced concern over the events in Afghanistan. Replying to the question of a newsman, the foreign minister voiced his great preoccupation over the situation prevailing in both Afghanistan and Iran, even speaking of the need to avoid a second [as heard] world war.

He expressed the hope that U.S. hostages in Tehran would be released.

The foreign minister [words indistinct] the extensive problems in Afghanistan and in Iran are preoccupying the Foreign Ministry [words indistinct] being so grave, call for the great ability and wisdom of world leaders to be overcome. Of primary importance, said the foreign minister, is the prevention of the present and future [word indistinct], the tragic and terrible consequences of a third world war.

Replying to a question in connection with UN efforts to obtain the release of the hostages in Tehran, the foreign minister said both the personal overtures of the UN secretary general and the meetings held by the Security Council and other moves being made by the United Nations will undoubtedly contribute to achieving a successful solution. Specifically, he added, [words indistinct] that the hostages be returned to their homes very soon.

POOR PEOPLE'S ARMY EXECUTES MILITARY COMMISSIONER

PA142147 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Jan 80 PA

[Text] The Mexican press published a communique from the Poor People's Guerrilla Army, EGP, of Guatemala which says among other things that EGP members executed Eleodoro Pelaez, chief of military commissioners and a member of the death squadron.

The communique also says that last Saturday EGP units occupied several villages in Mazatenango municipality, located on the Pacific Coast.

The communique also reports that members of the Luis Augusto Turcio Eslima front occupied the village of Chinin and other localities near Mazatenango in Suchitepeque Department.

HONDURAS

PEREZ CONDEMNS EL SALVADOR FOR LACK OF EFFORT IN PEACE TALKS

PA112241 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Jan 80 p 3 PA

[Text] Honduran Foreign Secretary Eliseo Perez Cadalso yesterday said El Salvador's political situation is preventing the renewal of the negotiations for the signing of a peace agreement. The foreign secretary stated this in reply to questions on the reason for the suspension of negotiations between the two countries, despite the fact that the Salvadoran Government junta said in its proclamation on taking power that peace with Honduras would be one of its goals.

Eliseo Perez Cadalso said it is precisely the section of the proclamation dealing with relations with Honduras that has led him to insist on the renewal of negotiations in the framework of the mediation agreement but this has been impossible in view of El Salvador's domestic situation.

He reported that on Wednesday he tried to speak over the telephone with Salvadoran Foreign Minister Hector Dada Hirezi to renew the negotiations which were suspended more than 6 months ago.

Perez Cadalso said the current situation of the negotiations must necessarily concern mediator Jose Bustamante y Rivero although he must also be aware of the Salvadoran political problems which prevent that government from focusing its interest on peace with Honduras.

Perez Cadalso's last contact with the Salvadoran foreign minister occured at the OAS General Assembly held in Bolivia last year.

EDITORIAL PREDICTS WORSENING ECONOMIC SITUATION FOR 1980

PA120109 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Jan 80 p 6 PA

[Editorial: "The Crisis Will Worsen This Year"]

[Text] The latest military government has tried to confuse the Hondurans by advocating a peaceful revolution instead of being more modest concerning its purposes and ability to implement it.

There are no official bases for a revolution at this time. There are no bases for the government economic policy--not even for the agrarian reform which was originally planned for the first phase of the military regime. There are even fewer bases for a deep change in all areas of production, the legal system, education and culture.

A revolution, even when termed peaceful, does not boil down to a dubious decrease in rent without modifying rent for businesses and without reducing the number of Hondurans who are unemployed or underemployed. In using these terms, the government is falling into a cheap demagogy and is lacking political honesty.

However, leaving this aspect aside for a better occasion, we must refer to the embarrassing image the government wants to give to 1980 by stating that it is ready for the challenges of the circumstances.

The gross national product for 1978 was larger than that for 1979 and we see no valid reason to expect that the 1980 figure will be more than the 1978 figure. The negative pressure being exerted by oil prices is not easily counteracted by placing our trust in the Texaco Caribbean, its supplies and explorations, because its interest does not lie in the development of Honduras but in its large profits.

If the 1980 budget was increased, it was at the sacrifice of the taxpayers--a heavier sacrifice not only because of the tax increase but because of the advance payments made to the government.

Nobody can trust the government's austerity plan. We should not forget that 1980 is primarily an electoral year and we know that the party campaigns demand funds and that there are parties which are famous for using public funds for campaigning.

In addition it is no secret that certain businessmen have sent their funds abroad and that the taxpayers with larger incomes will be forced to use their savings to pay for the advances demanded by the Treasury Ministry.

It is not true that the main burden of the taxes will not go from the privileged classes to the lower classes, the consumers, that is, the people. The people are the ones who ultimately pay all the taxes.

The amendments to the law on tenancy will sooner or later affect the weakest sector of the people.

The most vulnerable point of the economic policy does not rest on the fact that there is no economic growth, but on the fact that this partial and insufficient development is not being distributed. It does not reach the great majority--the people who never see an improvement in their living conditions.

There is more misery, hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy and unemployment as the years go by, despite the 6 or 7 percent increase in the gross national product. This is one of the most serious problems of the current economic policy. This is why the government does not want to discuss this topic and when it is brought up at public forums the government and its supporters become so irritated that they do not see citizens and Hondurans but mere unpatriotic people with subversive attitudes.

As long as this problem of the distribution of the national revenue continues to be neglected, as long as there is no social philosophy to define why we are producing, we will not be able to speak of development in the strict sense of the word. We will not be able to speak of an anti-inflationary policy or of the government's effort to counteract the burdensome crisis afflicting Honduras.

These evils, which are already great, will increase in 1980.

NICARAGUA

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, CHAMORRO SCORE INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN

PA140146 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1715 GMT 12 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Members of the Nicaraguan Social Democratic Party have burned a USSR flag in protest over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

It was reported here today that the burning took place at the headquarters of the recently founded party in Managua. Social Democratic leader Luis Rivas Leiva said the Soviet flag had been burned "not because we are anticommunist fanatics but because we are against Soviet, U.S. and Cuban imperialism."

Meanwhile, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was discussed today by Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, son of assassinated newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, in today's issue of LA PRENSA.

"The world observes with amazement the incredible Russian intervention in Afghanistan, a poor Asian country which is a member of the nonalined movement. Some 100,000 Russian soldiers will certainly take care of alining it properly; otherwise, there will be exterminations, airplanes, napalm, tanks, missiles, whatever is necessary," LA PRENSA editorial states.

After noting that Afghanistan, a nonalined country, was invaded by Russia, Chamorro says: "If Nicaragua is a nonalined country, if we are a truly Sandinist and anti-imperialist country, if we truly believe in the self-determination of peoples, it would be most consistent for us to condemn the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.

"Imperialism cannot be disguised. An imperialist act is to be condemned whether it comes from the East or the West," Chamorro says.

FIRST SOMOZIST GETS LONG SENTENCE FOR WAR CRIMES

PA130431 Paris AFP in Spanish 2221 GMT 12 Jan 80 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 12 Jan (AFP)--Emilio Paez Bone, a 45-year-old former Nicaraguan National Guardsman, today became the first Somozist to be sentenced to 30 years in prison for war crimes. According to the decree establishing the special trials of former Somozists, Paez Bone has 8 days to appeal the verdict. The appeals court cannot change the verdict, but it can reduce the sentence.

Local lawyers feel the first sentence shows the harshness with which Nicaraguan revolutionary justice--which has not executed anyone--will apply prison sentences against those responsible for the Somozist genocide.

Paez Bone had in his possession a card accrediting him as a member of the once-feared National Security Office (OSN), a branch of the Somozist government secret service which tortured and executed hundreds of members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

The 60 National Guard officers and soldiers who have been tried so f.r have admitted that they were in the ranks of the National Guard but denied having fought against the Sandinist front. Despite this, after 5 weeks of trials, no Somozist prisoner has been declared innocent.

MORE PROPERTY OF SOMOZIST OFFICIALS CONFISCATED

PA1+1927 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Reports written by Masaya prosecutor Dr Luis (Raudes) Madrid indicate his office has confiscated about 22,000 manzanas from many large landowners including Anastasio Somoza and his brother Jose. Other Somozists whose property was confiscated are Cornelio Hueck, Orlando Montenegro Medrano, Segundo Montoya and Juan Bautista Lacayo, the former ambassador to Costa Rica.

The prosecutor's office in Masaya also confiscated about 100 homes and residences owned by Somozists as well as estates on the shores of the Masaya and Apoye lakes. The owners included the dictator, who owned a summer estate on the shores of Masaya Lake.

Public transportation vehicles, including six taxis owned by Jorge Arias and Mrs Mercedes Arias, were also confiscated. The (?300) dossiers on the confiscations have already been sent to Managua where the Attorney General's Office will say the last word.

ARMANDO HART DELIVERS FUNERAL ORATION FOR CELIA SANCHEZ

FL122327 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2059 GMT 12 Jan 80 FL

[Speech by PCC Politburo member Armando Hart Davalos on the occasion of the death of Celia Sanchez Manduley, member of the PCC Central Committee, deputy to the People's Government National Assembly and secretary of the Council of State, at the Revolutionary Armed Forces pantheon in Colon Cemetery, Havana City--live]

[Text] Comrade Fidel, Comrade Raul, comrades of the revolution, comrades. The Cuban people and the Cuban revolutionary combatants have come here to bring the lifeless body of the most intimate of our sisters. We have laid on Cuban soil the most beautiful and native flower of the revolution. Celia was and will always be for all her comrades the most intimate and dearest fiber of the Cuban revolution. Suffice it to point out that in measuring this person who was our sister it will be impossible to write the history of Fidel Castro without at the same time reflecting on the revolutionary life of Celia Sanchez Manduley.

From the months prior to the Granma [yacht] landing there had not been any episode of the revolutionary struggle directed by Fidel in which Celia had not been in the front rank of combat. From the moment of the landing at the Coloradas [Beach] until the time of her death just a few hours ago, her permanent work alongside Fidel is one of the most tender, beautiful, human and revolutionary in all Cuban history. Her complete and absolute adherence to the most personal revolutionary feelings of Fidel in all instances will always be in history and in the heart of the people an example of unsurpassed political and ideological loyalty. She was a revolutionary combatant with exceptional feminine intuition, sensitivity and intelligence. Together with her personal bravery--which was seen throughout her life as a revolutionary and especially shown in the difficult times of the war and in the crucial and decisive instances faced by our process--was a simplicity, modesty and the exquisite sensitivity of a woman. The feeling and roots of the people which Celia carried in her militant awareness was a substantial part of her own character. She was also able to understand and make herself understood by the people in all profundities and with courtesy as few revolutionaries have been able to achieve.

Maybe this latter point has been one of the most valuable lessons of her life and one of the most sacred commitments which we, the cadres of the state and party, make here today in front of her tomb. We will find in her example of total devotion to the cause of Cuba and her impassioned interest in always keeping alive the contact with the people encouragement and teachings by which to continue on the path and march decisively forward, be it in our daily chores or in the most difficult times in which we will have to live in the future.

Her extraordinary sensitivity and concern for the uncertainties, opinions and interests of the people is well-known. It is known that she was able to successfully unite her administrative responsibilities and her work alongside Fidel with a very strict daily and systematic contact with the people. She never in the interest of immediate success relegated to a secondary level the interest of the people. For Celia there was no more important question than promoting and developing this link. But it was not enough for her to maintain this behavior. She was also interested in the party and state managing cadres relating to the population and very concretely and directly dealing with the problems for which they were responsible. And in addition, on days when the great national and international problems inevitably had to have Fidel's attention, Celia carried out her communication with the people with greater passion. And this was an important way by which the commander in chief learned what the people felt and wanted at all times.

These virtues of Celia are the results of the revolution and Fidel's own teachings. And she herself was a genuine creation of this revolutionary era.

The 23 most decisive years of Cuban history, that is the past decades, are impregnated with the example of her life, unselfishness, passion, care for the workers and her loyalty to the cause of the people. To recall her at this hour of sorrow means to open our hearts and show a piece of history which is a living and experienced part for each man and woman of the nation. The mark she left among us can never be erased. And you well know this because you feel it. These are not mere words. They are facts, our own flesh. They are part of our national and personal history.

I recall the first time that I heard someone speak about Celia. It was many months before the Granma landing. Comrades Pedro Miret and Nico Lopez went to Santiago de Cuba to meet ith Frank Pais, tour the former Oriente Province and study the possible areas which we could turn into combat zones for revolutionaries. The most decisive point of that trip was the region of Manzanillo. They returned to Havana from Oriente pleased with the possibilities in Manzanillo, where Celia and other comrades had organized clandestine nuclei and encouraged the popular movement against tyranny. In the midst of the clandestine work, where priority was placed on the problems we had in arming ourselves for the struggle, we got the impression from Nico and Pedro that in Manzanillo there was a budding popular movement of the masses and an effervescence of very advanced progressive ideas. The comrades brought back useful information for Fidel in the struggle to become free or martyrs in 1956.

I also recall the first time I saw Celia in Havana. She came to see several of us for authorization to go to Mexico to return on what later was the Granma yacht landing. Nevertheless Frank wanted Celia to remain in Manzanillo to organize the support for the landing. It can be said that Celia did not come over on the Granma due to a decision by the directorate of the [clandestine] movement in Cuba. Later on it could be proved that the work carried out by Celia in the areas of Pilon, Niquero and Manzanillo were of inestimable value during the days of the landing.

It has to be pointed out that before Celia made contact with Fidel, and therefore, before she demonstrated to him her organizational abilities and her exceptional executive abilities, she was already one of the most outstanding cadres of the clandestine movement in Oriente [Province]. Prior to the Granma landing Celia was already known and considered a valuable supporter of the 26 July movement. Not only did Celia come to the movement, but the movement directorate also came to Celia.

Already during those days in the Manzanillo area she was a prominent and growing political influence among the most humble sectors of the population. Because of the social composition of the region and the influence of progressive ideas there, the movement directorate in Havana and Santiago and of course Fidel always considered Manzanillo a very important center of revolutionary ideas. The work done by Celia and the comrades of that area would become, with the landing by Fidel, the most immediate point of contact between the Sierra [Maestra] and the plain.

For a couple of months Celia carried out intense organizational activity to support the [Granma] expeditionaries. She worked in the Manzanillo plain, that is, at the mouth of the Sierra, in organizing the Sierra rearguard, making this the main contact between the groups in rebellion commanded by Fidel and the clandestine movement operating in the rest of Cuba, especially in Oriente. The comrades who were working in the clandestine movement considered Celia to be a combatant of the plain. And they always knew that she knew the problems and situations on the plain in a very concrete way. She had deeply lived the clandestine movement in Oriente. She had a deep understanding of the revolutionary feelings of Frank and the clandestine combatants. She was one of them.

In February 1957 Frank, Celia and a group of comrades met for the first time with Fidel, Raul and Che [Guevara] and with other guerrillas on a ridge in the Sierra Maestra.

It was there that Celia personally met Fidel. From that meeting emerged the directive to clandestinely lead a strong contingent of men and weapons which had participated in the 30 November events into the Sierra.

In the following weeks Celia, along with Frank and several other comrades, worked without rest in this endeavor. The soul and the guidance of that operation were Frank and Celia. This management ability, which is the gift to convert the most daring projects into fact, and this formidable concern for detail--which Celia had and which all Cuban people know about, we could appreciate in an exemplary way during those weeks so full of history and memories. To move, during the first months of 1957, an armed detachment of close to 60 men from Santiago de Cuba and other areas in Oriente to Manzanillo, shelter them in the brush for over two weeks just a few kilometers from the entrance to the town [Manzanillo] and just off the highway between Bayamo and Manzanillo, and then transfer them to the Sierra Maestra--was a task demanding in addition to courage, capabilities of organization, deftness, talent and audacity.

It is true that Celia had great influence in Manzanillo over various popular sectors and that this would greatly help her in her activities. But the value of her work over those days can also be seen in the fact that being known by broad sectors of the population she always had to find ways to work in the clandestine movement within the area, setting up bold operations and avoid being discovered. That first movement of men and weapons from various areas of Oriente to the Sierra was without a doubt an element of extraordinary value in maintaining and later developing the guerrilla center.

The organizational work carried out in the areas of Manzanillo, Pilon and Niquero before the [Granma] landing; the vast clandestine network set up there before the Granma [landing]; the tenacious activities carried out by the revolutionaries of the area in the weeks between 2 December 1956 to 17 February 1957 When the famous meeting [between Fidel and Celia] took place; and the successful work which led to the operation of taking an armed detachment into the Sierra are three important milestones by which Celia began on her own to enter into the history of the revolution.

Over those days Celia was becoming the main link between the Sierra and the plain. Shortly afterwards, once the rearguard had been secured, she went to work in the Sierra alongside Fidel, becoming one of the very most important bulwarks of the guerrilla movement. Because she knew the area, had innumerable contacts in the Manzanillo plain, had close ties with the 26 July movement in Santiago and had an unlimited confidence in the triumph of the rebel cause--Celia became Fidel's principal aide. And in this way she became a symbol. The people know the history of how this symbol was forged. But at this moment it is our duty to recall it.

Heroic deeds of ancient peoples have been described. Imaginary lives are presented which literature has preserved up to our time. Nevertheless in the history of all true revolutions, legends usually take on very real characteristics. The young people of today should know that in the decades prior to the triumph of the revolution, it was said by that corrupt, neocolonial and bourgeois society that heroism, duty and honor were things of the past and that dignity, decorum and heroic deeds were outside political reality. The rebel army and the clandestine combat against the last proimperialist tyranny, that is, the epic action directed by Fidel broke this mediocre concept and brought to the forefront the full dignity of man.

As is known, those 25 historic months eliminated for all times more than five and one half centuries of colonialism. In those [months] about 100 years of Cuban revolutionary struggle for independence and liberty were synthesized. The guerrilla struggle and the development, beginning from that struggle, of a popular armed movement became an effective means of struggle by which to achieve revolutionary victory over bourgeois oppression. Fidel's tactics and strategy in the guerrilla armed struggle brought forth, materialized and achieved epic levels in that short historical period.

In the second year of the war Raul [Castro] left the Sierra Maestra to set up the second front. [Juan] Almeida advanced close to Santiago and set up the third front. In the final months Che [Guevara] and Camilo [Cienfuegos] marched to the west over the vast plain--which emerges in Bayamo and Manzanillo and extends through Last Tunas, Camaguey and Ciego de Avila up to the Escambray Mountains--and in this way placed themselves in the center of the island, recalling the historic deeds of [Maximo] Gomez and [Antonio] Maceo 60 years earlier. Fidel remained in the Sierra waging decisive combats, directing the strategy of war and becoming from that fort the most extraordinary popular leader of our America. And in the end, the victory of the rebel army crowned the deed and the rebels entered Santiago, took over the Moncada [Barracks], avenged the dead and began to clean off the unyielding crust of colonialism. Cuba was winning the right to an independent personality. In this way a new historical stage was opening for the Latin American Continent.

Celia decisively entered into history because of her bravery, constancy, unselfishness, industriousness and highly effective work alongside Fidel during all this time. In the mountains Celia was not just a heroine of the war. She was that and more. She was a heroine of work. In her the legend acquired real form and substance. We know that because of her modesty, simplicity and personal unselfishness she would not be pleased with our praising of her. But the people, the historical judgment and the necessary example to be followed by future generations demand that in this case we go over what would have been her will. We need Celia. May you continue serving us, and to continue serving the cause it is necessary to point out your merits.

This is not the time to tell your biography, but to stress the need that this be done. It is certain that there will be a pen and revolutionary heart to carry out this endeavor. Even after our deaths we are useful, said Julio Antonio Mella. Celia should continue being useful. But now this no longer depends on her. It depends on whether each one of us is able to understand and apply the lessons of her life. One has to study and praise her merits, not only honoring her historical greatness but also so that we--cadres of the party, state and mass organizations--can learn what our duties are in the present life of Cuba, and what virtues have to be developed to become more efficient in our work.

One of the best lessons we can teach today in overcoming our weaknesses and facing the responsibilities we have as revolutionaries is the example of Celia's behavior and the complete understanding of her virtues. What is required of us at this hour? The answer to this question will show us to a large degree the essential revolutionary virtues which characterized Celia Sanchez.

In their propaganda our enemies show communist leaders, and therefore those of the Cuban revolution, as dehumanized people. Those who want to learn about the human feeling in the heart of a communist and those who want to learn about the humanistic sensitivity in the hearts of the Cuban revolutionaries should study Celia's life. One of her deepest pleasures was talking with the men and women of the nation. Thousands of people in an unending line for over two decades approached her to present her their problems, concerns and interests and ask for guidance, advice and help. They can attest to this. Hundreds of comrades of the revolution can attest to this. They always found in her a sister. There is something else. If because of Fidel's tasks and responsibilities it was not possible for a comrade to explain to our commander in chief some problem of interest, it was enough to tell it to Celia. We knew of her sensitivity, maturity and understanding in acting for Fidel. After having spoken with her we felt certain that by following her advice we would be loyally following Fidel's guidance.

From the time in the Sierra, Celia carried out this role of comrade and of fraternal help with all combatants.

I do not believe that there is a single comrade in the Sierra or on the plain who went to Celia in that period or after the triumph to whom she did not extend her help. She was even concerned with the smallest details and personal concerns of the combatants. She did so with fraternity and with firmness with regard to matters of principle.

We all know that Celia was rigorous and demanding in regard to principles. She was also passionately human and tender. She had the capacity for dedication, personal unselfishness, human sensitivity and an exquisite gentleness of which only women are capable. There was no injustice which had to be righted, no human problem to be resolved and no matter of revolutionary interest to be discussed in which if Celia could become involved, she did not do so with firmness, modesty, warmth, decisiveness and also with fervent revolutionary passion. Celia was passionate, but of the type spoken about by Marti when he said that the passionate ones were the first-born of the world.

Celia's nature of gentleness, warmth, affection, joy of living was of the most rigorous firmness in principles and in revolutionary work. This combination of firmness and human feeling in facing each problem is a formidable example for our work of today and tomorrow. It is one of the main lessons which has been left for us and which we should apply today. Celia was like justice itself--human and demanding. Therefore her memory is an image of justness.

Perhaps this combination which life has shown to be exceptional, and united to a feeling for the people and her modesty and simplicity, made it easy for her to have a purified, fine and profound political identification with Fidel. If Che said that in the renewing, continuous and immortal Camilo there was the image of the people, we could say the same thing of Celia.

At the heart of this there is the following--her way of acting and behaving, her personal style, and her reactions when facing the problems of daily life typify the character and temperament of the Cuban people. She was a typical Cuban. She was so in her happiness, dynamism, extroverted and open nature, human fraternity, and in her firmness and rigor. She was also this way in the maturity she was able to achieve, because the Cuban is a person able to think in a mature and profound manner. Celia was a Cuban rebel who with the development of the revolutionary process was able to achieve an extraordinary maturity. She became mature without losing her rebelliousness, fervor and youthful passion.

Those of us who had the opportunity to speak with Celia over the last few years could see that the legendary heroine kept alive the flame of rebellion against all injustice and against everything poorly done. But at the same time she had acquired a mature awareness to understand the complexity of the political, social and state problems faced by a revolution such as ours.

At the same time Celia was creative. From power and authority she got a sense of creating. She could not conceive of using these [power and authority] to frighten or make herself comfortable. She did like to use these, but only to build and create. Power and authority can be used to make one comfortable, or to frighten, or they can be used as an instrument of creation for the people. She used it to create, build and carry out projects for the collective good and to leave a lasting mark on history and take a step forward in progress and efficiency for the people.

Celia employed the authority granted her like the great revolutionaries of history. She did not want authority for other things. She wanted it to contribute to the collective project. And she always used it to carry out projects, carrying out concrete tasks which were useful to the goals of the revolution. Only in this way is the authority, which the people hand over to us, genuinely revolutionary. For a true revolutionary there is no other purpose in having authority or power. We saw her like this in the work of building socialism, trying to solve innumerable problems from the most diverse areas of our social and economic life.

We saw her in this way at farms, plants, schools, hospitals, institutions, recreation centers and work places in general. We saw her building, rebuilding, repairing, correcting wrongs, tirelessly working in the most diverse and concrete tasks. We saw her become concerned with the details of very many projects for social or collective benefit.

And all of the tasks were inspired by the programs and ideas conceived by Fidel. She carried them out with imagination, and talked with a large number of people in the process. She talked with workers, peasants, technicians, specialists, students, young people and even children in carrying out the plans and tasks assigned to her. She worked tirelessly, night and day, without rest. Her life was a devotion to the revolution. Celia was a devotee of history.

Because she was aware that she was living great history, she zealously guarded all the documents, materials and writings of Fidel to preserve them for posterity. She set up a great historical file with an immense arsenal of valuable documents on the revolution and Fidel. In this way, historians and future generations will have available, thanks to Celia, a very extensive documentation of our age. She was also extraordinarily sensitive to the ideological aspects of every political and historical situation.

In matters of political principles, she was most demanding and at the same time showed an impassioned interest for the most just revolutionary interpretations in each situation. She felt the struggle for national liberation in Latin America and the Caribbean as something very personal. She felt very deeply the poverty of other peoples and imperialism's outrages anywhere in the world. She felt joy over the revolutionary victories of Vietnam, Angola, Ethiopia, Iran, Afghanistan, Nicaragua and Grenada with the same enthusiasm she had for the revolutionary triumph of 1 January 1959 in Cuba. There were no limits to her revolutionary feelings.

Celia had a very fine feeling for what is beautiful, and when she had any sort of influence she demanded beauty in the environment as well as in construction projects and projects of the revolution. Due to her profound feeling for the motherland, she promoted the Cuban forms of beauty. She has stamped the Cuban tropical beauty in man of our projects. As a result of her sense of humanity and plainness, she rejected formality in dealing with problems. She reached out to the concrete essence of the problems and sought a practical solution. She had a sense of what is practical and concrete as very few persons have. She avoided formality and always sought the practical aspect of all issues following her revolutionary instinct.

However, Celia knew that certain official formalities were required in the political life of our state and, above all, due to Fidel's responsibilities, she knew that she had to help in organizing them with precision and accuracy. Celia, the guerrilla of Oriente's mountains, who loved to sleep in hammocks or tour a mountain path and who never lost the taste for that type of life, was, nevertheless, able to organize and live within the formalities of official protocol which inevitably must be observed by all states. She skillfully moved in that area without ceasing to be the rebel guerrilla; the exemplary guerrilla who, carrying a knapsack on her shoulders, accompanied the commander in chief everywhere; the one who knew how to face up to the mountain range's vicissitudes; the selfless worker who together with Fidel toured the agricultural projects, work centers, schools and hospitals. She was also able to prepare and organize the formalities of our official and protocol life. She did that efficiently and with great dedication.

How was she able, despite her indomitable spirit and popular interest, to accept the need for working within and organizing official formlaities, which in many instances appear to be very removed from the normal ways of the people?

How was this legendary guerrilla, who was deeply rooted in the people, of rebel consciousness and intransigent in the face of formality, able to become an indefatigable and efficient organizer of our state's formalities? She was able to do it because she knew it was a requirement and a need of the revolution and of Fidel's work. In most of the cases she carried out this function without official recognition, but she always was the definitive authority in finalizing and defining the details.

Her interest in not overlooking any detail made her very close to Fidel. She also knew the details she had to take care of and did this very directly and profoundly. She knew the important or decisive details for success in all endeavors. She guaranteed with exactness the fulfillment of the task. How many times, comrades, do we overlook the concrete aspects and details of the problems in our daily work and get lost in vagueness, generalities and unnecessary particulars? How many times, for this reason, do numerous cases of carelessness and deficiency appear in our path? If all cadres of the state and party would be as dedicated and careful in performing the work as Celia was in handling the decisive details, our deficiencies would surely be greatly reduced.

Comrades, that was Celia. She was great in heroic selflessness, in unconditional loyalty. She was great in her unity with the people, in her love for the work of the revolution, in her impassioned interest in everybody. She was great in her concern for the more concrete and decisive aspects of each of the revolution's projects. She was great, perhaps over and above any other virtue, in her modesty and plainness. Among all her qualities we must definitely note her rejection of any form of ostentation and her closeness to simple and humble ways of living and working. This surely was one of her most moving virtues.

Celia's qualities bring to mind Marti's poems entitled "The Mountain Stream Pleases Me More Than the Sea." She could not be different because she was very close to Fidel. Our revolutionary generation and today's Cuban people have lived extraordinary moments of universal history. Twenty or 25 years ago not even the most romantic idealist of our group would have dreamed of the magnitude of the work and the significance of the task carried out by the Cuban revolution. In a world of turmoil and serious contradictions, Cuba has joined the vanguard and raised the flags of mankind.

In this enormous task whose historical and international significance is well-known, Celia Sanchez occupies a most outstanding place of honor. Celia must be studied as a genuine popular representative of the period of time in which Fidel and the people changed the direction of America's history and decisively helped in the revolutionary transformation of the world. She is side by side with Che and Camilo. As they did, she entered into eternity as the purest symbol of the Cuban people during Fidel's era.

The new generations of Cubans, all our people and, among them, those of us who have the great honor of exercising political authority have the duty to draw conclusions from her exemplary life to overcome many deficiencies and thereby advance at a faster pace. How can we do this? The first thing is to become aware of the fact that the work that lies ahead is not an easy task. Some 23 years ago when Celia organized the revolutionaries in Manzanillo, Niquero and Boqueron to support the landing, the task of the revolutionaries was gigantic. This task was carried out and the Cuban people made a historic leap of extraordinary proportions as none other in America's history. The progress attained is a fact that cannot be denied, not even by our enemies and which we have the duty to maintain always fresh in our minds. We have the duty to maintain it fresh in our minds because it is the work of our martyrs and our people.

Today our people are also facing a gigantic task, which is to overcome our internal deficiencies and courageously and intelligently undertake the eradication of the difficulties derived from objective problems prevailing in the world which affect Cuba. In doing this, we shall overcome. We shall overcome because the future entirely belongs to socialism. We shall overcome because hundreds of martyrs and heroes encourage us. We shall overcome because, as in the past, we have Fidel's leadership. The cadres of the party, state and mass organizations must study our weaknesses and deficiencies. Each of us, from our post of responsibility and duty station, must face up to the duties to the fatherland and socialism.

The revolutionary exigency requires us to work with a dedication increasingly more profound and rigorous and at the same time to know in detail our individual responsibilities and fully assume them. We must not wait for others to do what each of us is responsible for doing. Among the historic heroes of the Cuban revolution who encourage us in this gigantic effort is Comrade Celia. She gives us encouragement, strength and fervor with her example. She teaches us the virtues which we must develop. She stimulates us in this era of the fatherland, America and the world.

Comrade Celia has died but the enlightening example of her life is stronger than ever before in her comrades in struggle and the people. With the teachings of her life and those of all the fatherland's heroes and martyrs we will continue to work without rest to conquer the future. A worthy tribute to Celia Sanchez is to strengthen the work of our mass organizations--the central organization of Cuban workers and its unions, the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the Federation of Cuban Women, the National Association of Small Farmers, the Federation of University Students, the Federation of Intermediate Level Students, the National Organization of Cuban Pioneers and, very especially, the Union of Young Communists.

Let us pray tribute to Comrade Celia by improving the work of our state and the management of the work centers by raising the level of efficiency of the administrative, union and political organs. Let us pay tribute to her memory by stepping up the coordinated and efficient effort of the party, state, mass and political organizations with the noble purpose of advancing the Cuban revolution. We will do it under the party leadership and in that manner will gain new and more extraordinary victories, victories against deficiencies, victories against imperialism, victories for socialism.

The highest tribute that can be paid to the immortal guerrilla is to increasingly unite with greater energy, strength and efficiency our communist vanguard with all the people in a systematic effort aimed at overcoming our deficiencies and confronting with determination and courage the revolution's enemies. Let us transform the sorrow which overwhelms us today into incentive and encouragement to fulfill our duties. Let us be worthy of Celia's teachings and let us transform today's sorrow into one more force for moving the revolution ahead. Our sorrow is great but greater still is the task that Celia's encouragement forces us to carry out. This is what Celia would want us to do. This is what we will do for Celia. In this manner the revolutionaries and the Cuban people will pay tribute to the extraordinary guerrilla, to the beloved sister, to the incomparable comrade in struggle and combat of Fidel and the people. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON STATE ARBITRATION OPENS

FL150044 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Jan 80 FL

[Text] Today at the National School of Management of the Economy the first national seminar on state arbitration opened. It will continue meeting through Friday 18 January.

The opening was made by Dr Miguel Reyes Salt, chief arbiter. He said that they should zealously watch over the fulfillment of the single development plan, contractual discipline and socialist legality. He added that to achieve these objectives they have to be trained with a revolutionary spirit, tenacity and systematically and profoundly examine with Marxist-Leninist objectivity every step, measure and decision.

The national state arbitration organ is competent to hear and resolve litigation in which one side is an enterprise of foreign trade or of foreign economic, scientific and technical cooperation except in cases dealing with litigation among enterprises which are subsidiaries of the same organization. It will also be able to resolve litigation arising among parties of economic contracts dealing with investments made in the (single development) plan in accordance with the Council of Ministers or the Central Planning Board--JUCEPLAN.

State arbitration set up at organizations of the central management of the state are also competent to hear and resolve controversies arising among budgeted enterprises and units, regardless of the amount involved or the nature of the matter.

COMMENTARY NOTES IMPORTANCE OF SAVINGS TO ECONOMY

FL112017 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Jan 80 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry Combatants Political Information Program commentary]

[Text] The second session of the People's Government National Assembly, which was held during the final days of 1979, passed the single state plan for economic and social development laws and the budget for the next year. The single development plan for 1980, which established a total social production growth of 3 percent, has been drawn up in a realistic manner and in accordance with our possibilities, taking into account the inflationary situation in the capitalist world, which affects us in some manner.

The fulfillment of this plan will require the sustained effort of workers in all sectors of the economy, and the workers will once again have to demonstrate the political and ideological development level achieved by our people over these years of building socialism. There is a task which is the expression of revolutionary awareness and in which everyone in one way or another can actively participate--with regard to savings.

We can and should all participate in the tasks of saving--workers in production and service centers, students and teachers at their schools, militarymen in their units and children in their homes and schools. Savings must become an activity of the masses in [building] socialism, where all material and spiritual goods created by the people are for their full enjoyment. In addition, there are many ways to save in the various areas of work--from the responsible official who at the time of planning a task must keep in mind all details and factors so that everything is done in an orderly fashion and in time without wasting effort; the worker at a factory, farm, cooperative or service center who can make decisive contributions in this savings task by struggling to see that things are done as they have been planned and products are manufactured with the required quality. We would not solve anything if by having a false conception of savings we do things badly and the products do not last as long as they should.

Another very efficient way of contributing to savings is by taking care of the things we have--transportation, education, health and recreational facilities; saving fuel, raw materials and in general all those resources needed by the economy--are all tasks of the highest priority. Savings is an expression of the revolutionary awareness of our people, and is therefore a task for everyone.